

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for regulating the localized phototoxicity of an effector photosensitizer molecule during photodynamic therapy by quenching the activity of the effector photosensitizer molecule in neighboring tissues of the tissue targeted for destruction, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a quenching photosensitizer molecule, the absorption spectrum of which falls outside the wavelength range used to excite the effector photosensitizer molecule, prior to administering the effector photosensitizer molecule and performing photodynamic therapy.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue targeted for destruction is a light-accessible localized tumor.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the tissue targeted for destruction is a pathological blood vessel emerging from the retinal choroid in the neovascular form of age related macular degeneration.

4. The method of claim 3 which prevents or reduces the adverse effects to retinal pigmented epithelium during photodynamic therapy of age related macular degeneration with the effector photosensitizer molecule by preventing or reducing the formation of reactive oxygen species and the damage induced by the light-excited effector photosensitizer molecule in the retinal epithelium during photodynamic therapy.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is a dianthraquinone.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is hypericin.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule hypericin is administered intravenously at a dose in a range of about 0.01-2 mg/kg.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is administered intravenously at a dose in a range of about 0.01-0.5 mg/kg.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is administered intravenously in a range of about 2 to 72 hours prior to intravenous administration of the effector photosensitizer molecule for photodynamic therapy.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is a dianthraquinone.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the quenching photosensitizer molecule is hypericin.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein the effector photosensitizer molecule is verteporfin.

13. A method for preventing adverse effects to neighboring tissues during photodynamic occlusion of blood vessels by an effector photosensitizer molecule, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a quenching

photosensitizer molecule that possesses a long tissue half-life and quenches the photodynamic activity of the effector photosensitizer molecule to prevent or reduce the formation of reactive oxygen species in neighboring tissues during photodynamic therapy.